DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 376 767 HE 027 904

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TITLE	Lessons of a Generation: Education and Work in the Lives of the High School Class of 1972.
REPORT NO	ISBN-1-55542-636-0
PUB DATE	94
NOTE	309p.; Earlier versions of Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5 were published as monographs by the U.S. Department of Education between December 1990 and October 1992. See ED 338 532, ED 327 112, ED 338 269 and ED 349 852.
AVAILABLE FROM	Jossey-Bass Publishers, 350 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94104 ($34.95).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Reports - Research/Technical (143)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Athletes; *Cohort Analysis; College Athletics; Colleges; Community Colleges; Cultural Literacy; Educational Attainment; Educational Attitudes; Educational Trends; *Education Work Relationship; *Employment; Females; Higher Education; High School Graduates; High Schools; Longitudinal Studies; *Role of Education; Sex Differences; Sociocultural Patterns
IDENTIFIERS	*National Longitudinal Study High School Class 1972

ABSTRACT

This book examines the educational and occupational choices that 1972 high school graduates made over the succeeding 15 years, focusing on how postsecondary education has made a difference in their lives. It uses data collected for the National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972 (NLS-72), which has tracked a representative sample of 22,652 individuals using survey questionnaires and school records. Six chapters address: (1) methodological issues and the NLS-72 cohort; (2) the educational attitudes and attainment of women, with an emphasis on their experiences in the job market and the effect of sex bias on earnings and advancement; (3) the educational attainment and occupational choices of college athletes; (4) the role of community colleges on educational attainment and occupations; (5) the effect of college curriculum and course selection on cultural literacy; and (6) the economic, social, and cultural trends of the 1970s. Four appendixes provide information on definitions used in the book's tables; institutional selectivity and course-taking patterns; educational pathways, socioeconomic status, and major field distributions; and other longitudinal studies that include educational data. (Contains 260 references.) (MDM)

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